

Crowquill

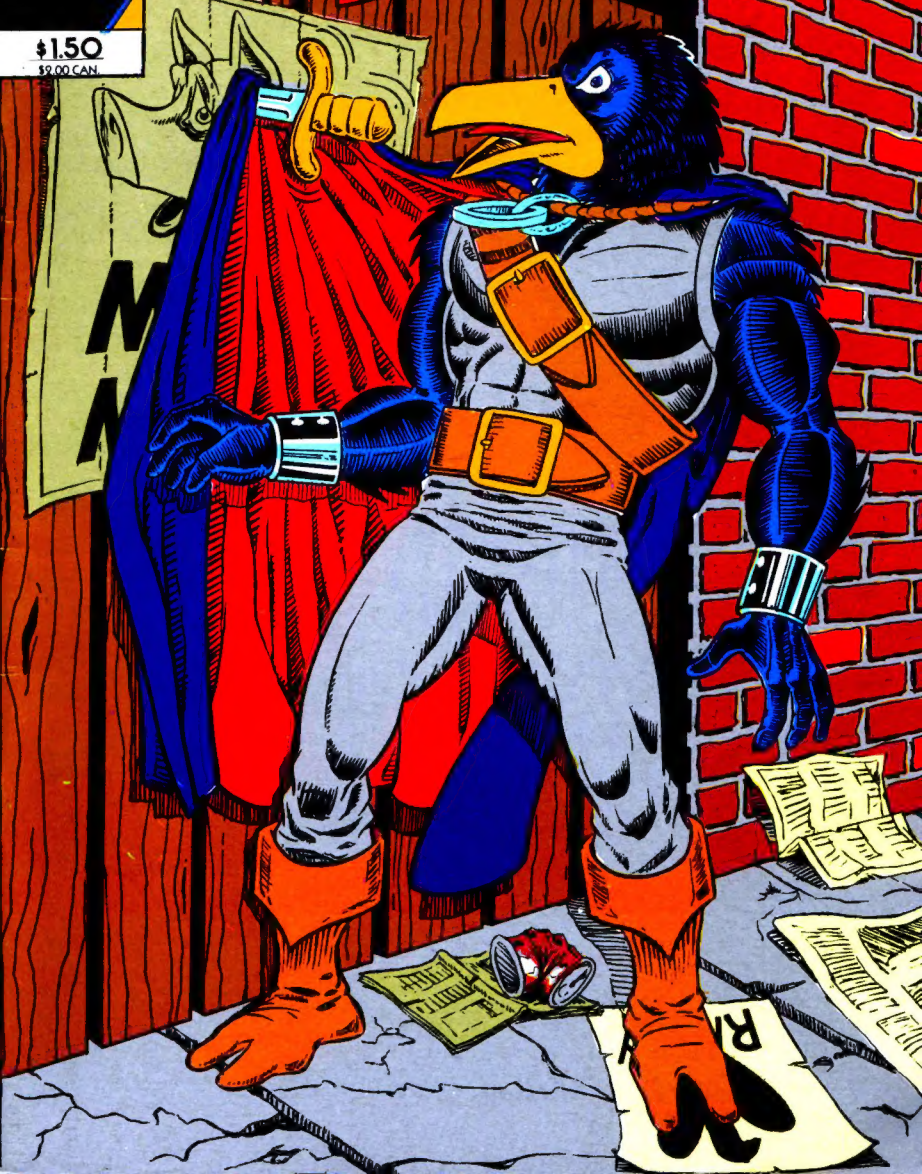


\$1.50

\$2.00 CAN.

EBNN

2



Quoth the Raven

If you were with us last issue, thank-you. If this is your first experience with EB'NN, welcome.

Working on EB'NN, I often wonder what makes a comic book popular. I know eye-catching artwork, a compelling story and interesting characters help, but what makes a comic really memorable and special to its readers. Recalling 10+ years of comic book reading, I've listed a few series that I remember with personal fondness.

-The death of MANHUNTER in the first comic I bought, DETECTIVE COMICS, which was only .60 for 100 pages (and 80% reprint material).

-SPIDER-MAN is driven to the brink of insanity by the Jackel.

-AQUAMAN becomes a fugitive from Atlantis, battles to regain his throne and loses his son.

-Into the lives of the troubled and the desperate strolls the PHANTOM STRANGER.

-Roy Thomas and Frank Robbins rewrite the history of WW II in the INVADERS.

-Robots are the latest craze so why hasn't DC brought back the METAL MEN?

-JONAH HEX doomed to an eternity as a stuffed sideshow attraction. (Put HEX to rest or back in the west!)

-The occult and a number of DC's "mystery" characters appear in the CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN.

-The return of the JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA and comic's history is revealed to a new generation.

-DC canceled SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN just before the climatic issue. Are we ever going to find out what happened to Rac and his M-west.

-The super-team beyond compare as Claremont, Byrne and Austin bring us those UNCANNY X-MEN.

-The ultimate BATMAN (I just missed O'Neil and Adams) by Englehart, Rogers and Austin in the pages of DETECTIVE COMICS.

-The creator and book that changed the comic book industry: Dave Sim and a funny, little aardvark named CEREBUS.

-Miller... DAREDEVIL... Miller... RONIN... Miller... Miller... Miller...

-Mark Evanier and Dan Spiegel remind me that comics are fun with their version of BLACKHAWK.

-Sex and violence in the not-to-far-flung-future in AMERICAN FLAGG by Howard Chaykin.

-MASTER OF KUNG FU, JOURNEY, ZOT, SWAMP THING, NEXUS, MIRCLEMAN!

These titles and characters, and others too numerous to mention, have been a part of my life for over a decade. Maybe someday a young artist/reader/writer will be entertained and/or influenced by EB'NN, making all our hard work very worthwhile.

Let me not forget to mention SILVERWING, whose premiere appearance unfolds in the back pages of this very book. Alois Silverwing is a hard-boiled dinosaur detective, cracking cases against the seamy underworld of New Eden. Creator, Mark Nelson, has wanted to draw SILVERWING for many years and his beautifully rendered story is a testament to his desire to make this character special.

Everyone involved is excited by the results of our efforts. I feel EB'NN #2 contains the quality we set with the first issue and improves upon that. I've tried to eliminate the excess from the script, driving the narrative straight forward. Chris is getting more into the characters as his pencils attest. The story flows smoothly from panel to panel with some great sequences. (Jack's scene of false bravado is my favorite.) Mike's inks are fuller, adding mood and texture to the entire package. I think you'll agree and, like me, you won't be able to wait for EB'NN #3.

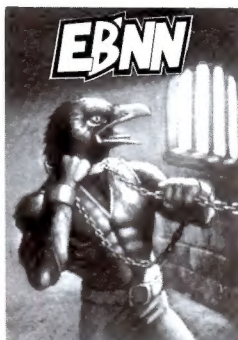
As a special note, I would like to thank our wives for their support, patience and attempt to understand why we spend so much time on this comic book.

-Michael Dimpsey



The story so far...

Immediately upon arrival in New Eden, Eb'nn is forced to rescue Jack from the drug crazed populace. Later, Eb'nn is hired by Mayor Mayer and Judas to assassinate the leader of a religious cult, Brother Feelwell. A handgun and a box of ammo will be the raven's payment for successfully completing the murder. Meanwhile, Jack encounters Tiger, whose mother has abandoned him after stealing a bag of gold from Eb'nn. The rabbit promises the orphaned cub that Eb'nn will find his mother. The raven attends a rally of the Followers and discovers first hand the power of the drug called "sacrament". Senseless in a hallucinatory stupor, Eb'nn loses possession of his gun and almost his life. Upon recovery, Eb'nn breaches the walls of Feelwell's temple, uncovering a secret cache of "sacrament". In a blazing battle, Eb'nn defeats the temple guards and destroys the entire drug supply.



number three shipping in may

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MIKE DIMPSEY
WRITER

CHRIS ECKER
PENCILS, LETTERS

MIKE SCHNEIDER
INKS, GUMBY

PRESENT **EBNN**™ The Raven, in part 2 of:

**THREE
NIGHTS...**

**"A FUNNY THING
HAPPENED
ON THE WAY TO
THE RALLY!"**

EBNN, HIRED ASSASSIN. THE RAVEN BALANCES THE FATE OF A MILLION SOULS ON THE RAZOR EDGE OF HIS SWORD.



NEW EDEN. BURNING IN THE FLAMES OF ANARCHY SINCE BEING ABANDONED BY THE MIGHTY REPUBLIC. THE ONCE PROUD CITY-STATE DECAYS IN THE GRASP OF AN INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE.

CHURCH AND STATE. BOTH PROMISING THE BIRTH OF ORDER FROM THE CHAOS OF CONFLICT. THE OPPOSING FACTIONS VIE FOR DOMINATION OF THE UNCONTROLLABLE.

METRO HALL,
THE OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR...

SKEEEKRACKKRUMBLE!

JUDAS,
PLEASE...
DON'T
LEAVE!!

I TOLD YOU
I'D BE RIGHT
BACK,
OSCAR!

MAYOR
BADER,
SERVANT,
FRIEND

BUT, I'M
FRIGHTENED!

RALL

REALLY OSCAR!
IT'S ONLY
LIGHTNING!

BUT, WHAT
IF THE RAVEN
FAILS?

OSCAR! I'VE
TAKEN CARE OF
EVERYTHING. NOW,
STOP YOUR SNIVELING.
NOTHING CAN GET
YOU UP HERE!!

SLAM!

JUDAS?

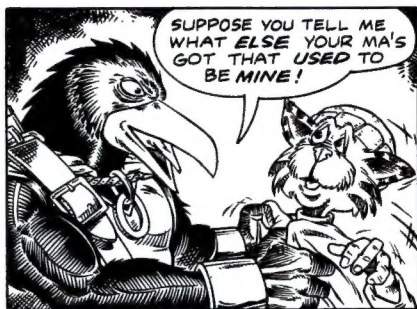


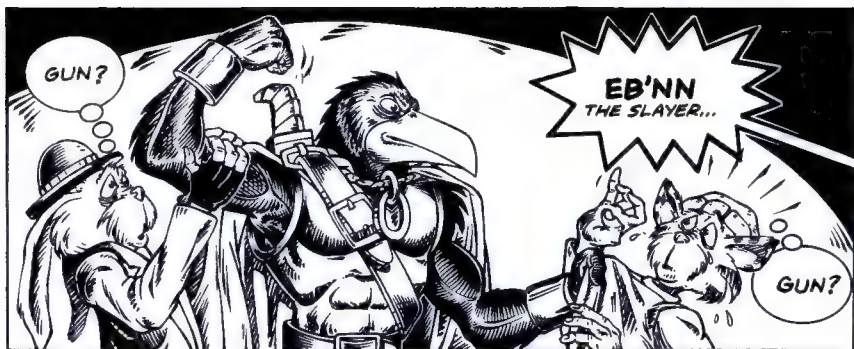




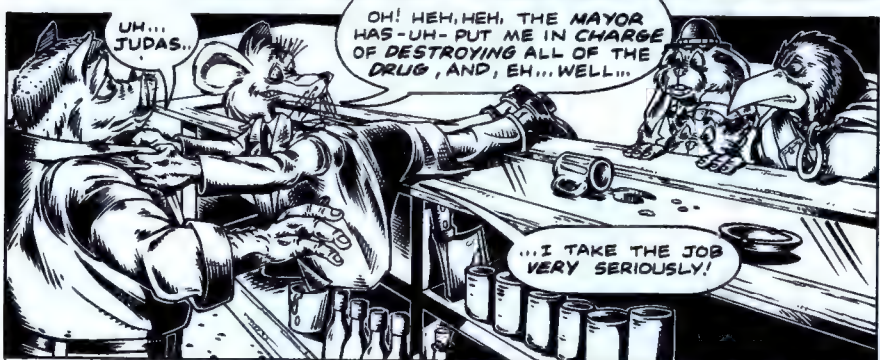
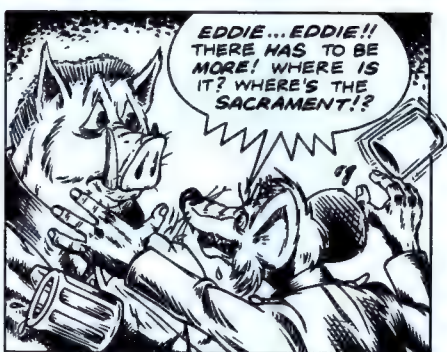
















INTERLUDE.....

YOU FOUND ALL
THIS ON THE
RAVEN, PEDRO?

SI,
MY
LORD.

HMMM... JUSTICE
WAS DELIVERED TO THAT
TRAITOROUS MOUSE LAST
NIGHT...

... UNFORTUNATELY, IT APPEARS NOW,
THAT THE RAVEN ALSO SHOULD HAVE
BEEN DEALT WITH.

FORGIVE
ME.

NONSENSE,
PEDRO, YOU'RE A
GOOD SOLDIER OF
THE WORD, I'M
SURE THAT THIS
INNOCENT
MISTAKE CAN BE
EASILY
CORRECTED...

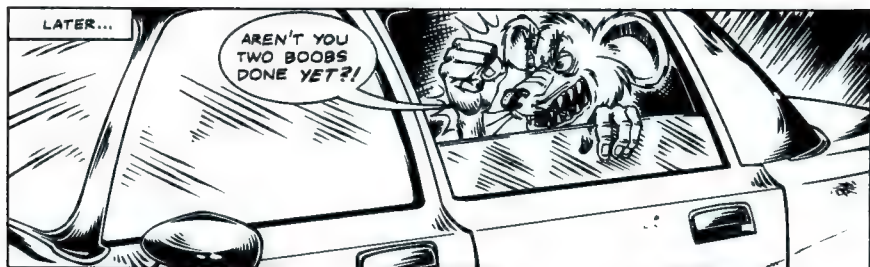
I KNOW THAT
DEVIOUS RAT AND
PIG ARE BEHIND THIS
PLOT. FIND THE
RAVEN...

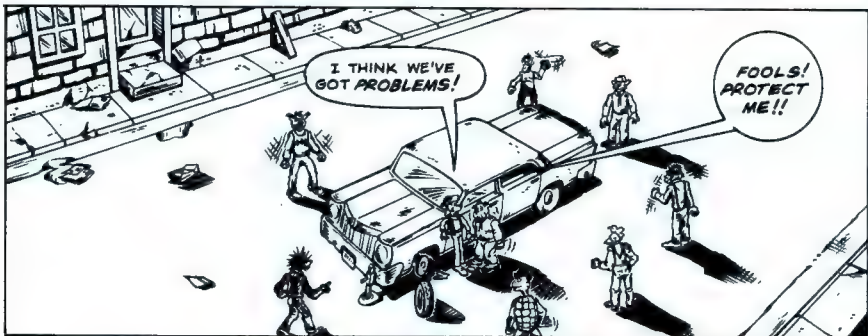
...MAKE IT
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR HIM TO
COMPLETE HIS
MISSION.

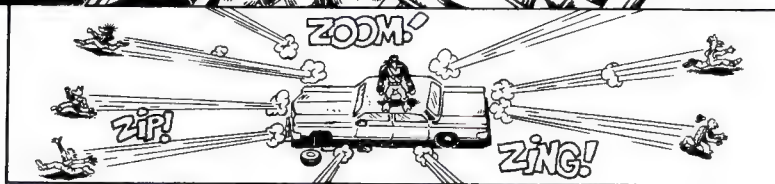
SI,
MY
LORD.

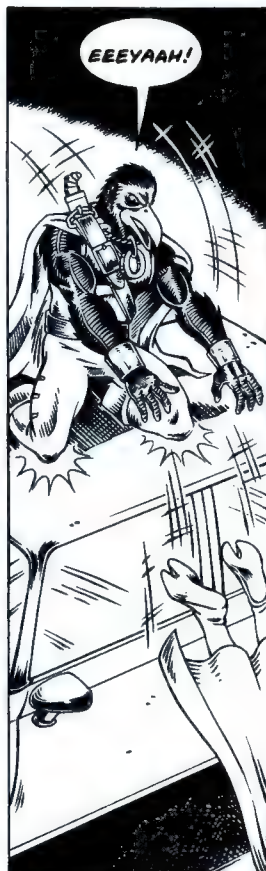
END INTERLUDE.







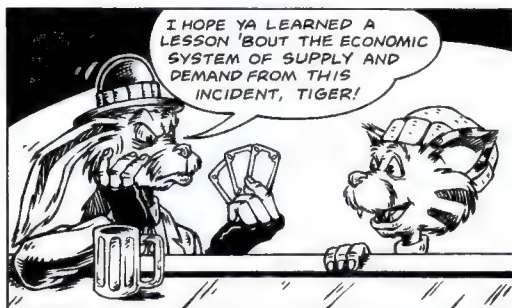
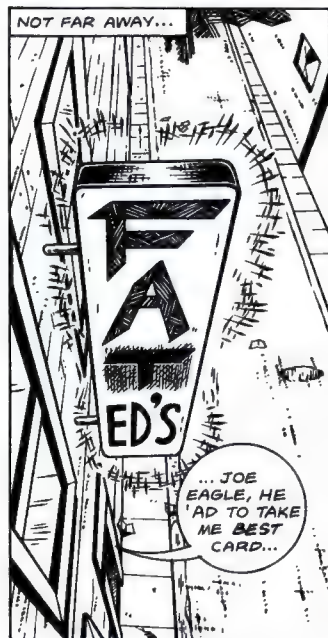




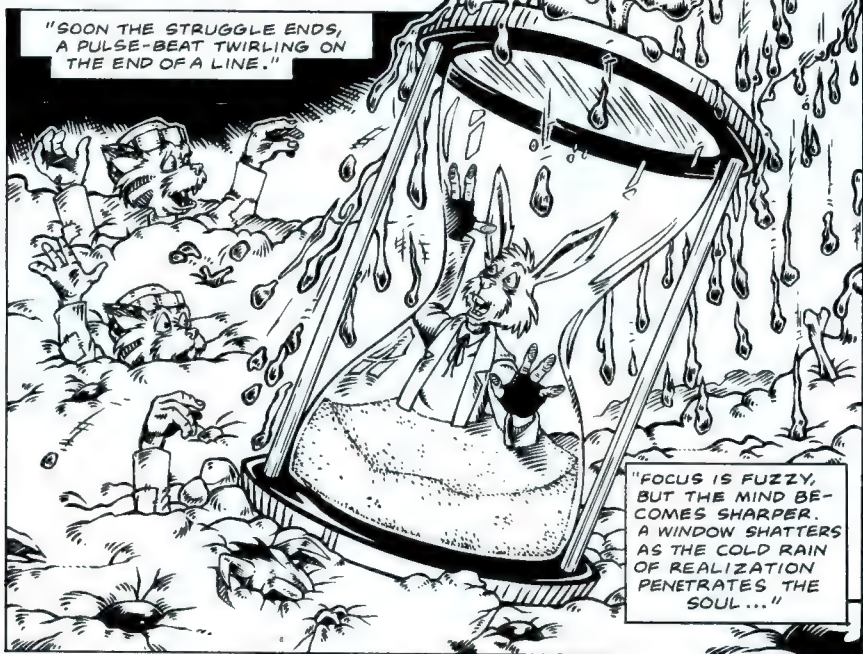
SHINK!











AND AT BROTHER FEELWELL'S TEMPLE...

... BLESSED
ARE YOU BY THE
WORD OF FEELWELL!

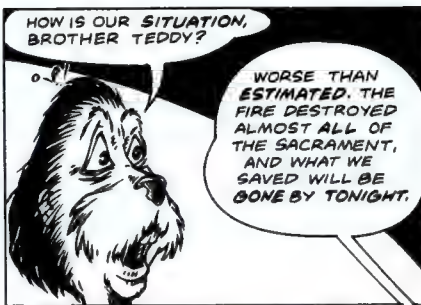


BROTHER OTTO, PLEASE
CONTINUE THE PASSING
OF THE SACRAMENT.



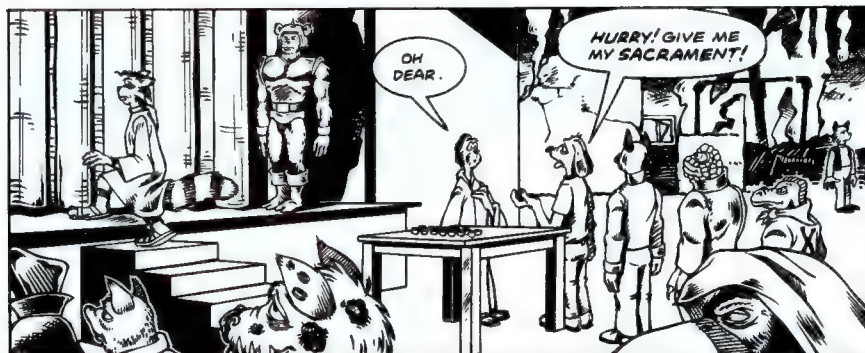
HOW IS OUR SITUATION,
BROTHER TEDDY?

WORSE THAN
ESTIMATED. THE
FIRE DESTROYED
ALMOST ALL OF
THE SACRAMENT,
AND WHAT WE
SAVED WILL BE
GONE BY TONIGHT.



OH
DEAR.

HURRY! GIVE ME
MY SACRAMENT!







... PLEASE, YOU'RE TOO KIND, REALLY... NOW AS I WAS SAYING... WALKING TO THE TEMPLE, MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS, NATURALLY, I CAME UPON A MOUSE STEALING THE HUBCAPS OFF OF A CAR...

... SO I SEZ TO THIS MOUSE "SON, YOU SHOULDN'T BE TAKING THINGS THAT DON'T BELONG TO YOU." WELL, THAT MOUSE, HE GLANCED DOWN THE STREET, THEN AT ME, REAL NERVOUS LIKE. THE WHOLE TIME, HE'S TRYING TO HIDE THE HUBCAPS BEHIND HIS BACK...

...WELL, HE SEZ TO ME "MISTER, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I CAN'T FIND A JOB, I'VE GOT A FAMILY-A WHOLE LITTER, THERE'S NO MONEY AND THE KIDS ARE STARVING!"



SO I SEZ... THIS IS GONNA KILL YOU... I SEZ, "SON, NO WONDER YOUR KIDS ARE STARVINGSNICKER.... YOU'RE STEALING THE WRONG THING..."







DESTROY
HIS BLACK
HEART!



REPENTANCE!



CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...



RAVEN RAVINGS

P.O. BOX 463/BROOKFIELD, IL 60513

The following letter from his sister means more to Chris than any other reaction we've received on EB'NN.

Dear Chris,

Received yer package today and perused everything over a turkey deluxe at Arby's. My first reaction was pleasant surprise; then my heart swelled with pride (or maybe heartburn). All seriousness aside folks, I am DULY IMPRESSED! I read the thing 3 times already, and here are my comments:

Your composition, as usual, is great. The first time through I found the story a little hard to follow, but the artwork knocked me out so much, I guess I was paying more attention to that. Of course, I noticed the "signals to the audience" and the clever things you put into the details (e.g. Mickey Mouse, nuclear waste, dinosaur tails -rrrrr). Love it, love it! My favorite piece of dialogue is "First you're a religious fanatic, then you're a sex pervert!!" Eb'nn sez, "What's the difference?" My sentiments exactly. That page, by the way, is my fave. The upper right panel, by itself, would look great in my room!! It would sure intimidate my dates! My next two faves are the following page, introducing Tiger, and page 22, the bunch o' animals shot!

I really liked the introduction too. I got a lump in my throat reading it (but then somebody did the Heimlich maneuver on me and I coughed up the turkey deluxe!) No, really. Your friend is a darn good writer, maybe the average knuckle walker in your readership won't get into it, but I like your "dream".

The only criticism I have is 3 or 4 (or 5) spelling errors. Big deal. When you get rich and famous, you hire an editor to take care of that stuff.

Feelwell? Indeed! Love the toupee.

Anyway, thank-you, thank-you, thank-you for the stuff ya sent! It's great! (So is the bulge that occasionally shows up in Eb'nn's knickers!)

see ya-
Patti
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Yer welcome, yer welcome, yer welcome. Glad ya liked the stuff, Patti. What do you think of EB'NN #2? Chris and I worked on making the story easier to follow and hopefully we caught all the spelling errors. Chris is responsible for some of the background details, but the man who deserves the most blame for his sick sense of humor is the inker, Mike Schneider.

Because of all your ads in the Comics Buyer's Guide, I became very interested in getting a copy of EB'NN #1. Needless to say that when I saw it on the stands, I bought it. I am glad I did.

Yours truly,
Patrick Stevens
Kansas City, MS

I'm glad you did too!

In your intro, you describe EB'NN as an anti-hero, and in this opening issue there is certainly little that would make one believe that he is a true hero. Sure, he's brave, strong, and confident, but he's also arrogant, rude, greedy, and presumptuous. Besides which, he is embarked upon a mission of mercenary murder, payment for which is a weapon with which he can threaten and kill even more people in the future. I don't know if EB'NN will develop personally as the series progresses, but he definitely has a lot of room in which to move up!

However, Jack makes up for a lot in the "lovable character" department. His blustery act fools no one and he comes across as an endearing sort of failure — someone who perhaps was once strong and proud but who now can only put up a pretense of pride and strength (however capable he may still feel in his own mind). In fact, that EB'NN would (presumably) be friendly with such a character as Jack is one of the few things that makes the reader think that EB'NN has some moral potential.

If Jack's act fools no one else, then Tiger's doesn't even fool Jack! I'm not a big fan of "cute little kids on the make" since most of the humor comes from them trying to be nasty but failing in a cute way. To me, this just means they'll be big trouble when they're older and don't fail anymore — cutely or otherwise. However, Tiger's toughness is very superficial and he appears to be genuinely trustworthy kid — if only given a chance.

There were several coincidences in the issue: EB'NN meeting the woman who just happens to be Tiger's mother who just happens to be a member of the cult EB'NN is investigating — and Jack happening to meet Tiger. However, a certain number of coincidences are allowable to set up a series — after all, isn't happenstance sometimes a major force in our lives? However, don't go overboard with this in the future!

I found the art to be very crisp and pleasing to the eye. There were a few problems in storytelling, but they did not hurt the flow overly much. This strip

tries to mix both humor and drama, adventure and comedy, and the art nicely balances these elements. It finds a spot between total realism and outrageous "bigfoot" funny animal art. This mixture is more problematic in the script, though. So far, it has been handled okay, but mostly because the humor centres on Jack and the drama centres on EB'NN — and the two have not interacted to a great extent yet. When the two storylines meet, it will be interesting to see if the balance can be maintained.

A good-looking, promising effort.

Yours truly,
"T.M. Maple"
Weston, Ontario

Thanks, T.M., for the excellent analysis of our main characters.

Your right, EB'NN is a jerk! But why is he a jerk? That is something that will be explained as the series progresses (and hopefully EB'NN won't seem like such a jerk then).

Your description of Jack was almost scary. Either we did a great job of fleshing out the character in one issue or you've been reading our minds. You're going to like it when we explore Jack's character in future issues.

When you're a little kid (and a big kid, too) you want everyone to like you. That's Tiger. He's going to do some quick growing up as he travels around with EB'NN and Jack.

Thank you for the sneak preview of EB'NN. I quite enjoyed it. Although I had at first simply thought it was a funny animal parody of GRIMMACK, upon reading through it, I find that the storytelling rises above that. You have a wonderful series starting here and I wish you every success with it.

Sincerely,
Deni Loubert
Publisher/Renegade Press
N. Hollywood, CA

Thanks for the words of encouragement, Deni. They are greatly appreciated. —Michael

Next Issue:

The exciting finale to "Three Nights" in EB'NN #31. Eb'nn becomes captive to Feelwell's mad form of justice! Are Jack and Tiger the raven's only hope for survival? Also in SILVERWING, can the hard-boiled dinosaur detective outwit the Slammer and his hood?

RALPH SNARF LOVES HIS NEW POPULARITY

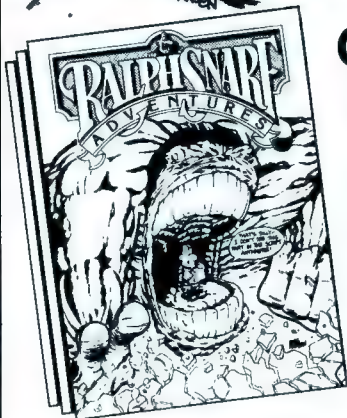


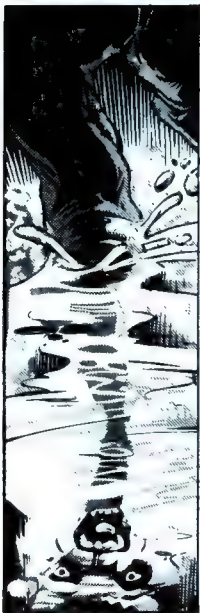
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"ME? I'M WHAT YOU
CALL A PRIVATE EYE.
THE TAG'S ALOIS..."

SILVERWING



SILVERWING, YAH
GOT TO HELP...



... ME!



JOHNNY,
YOU'RE
SHOT!

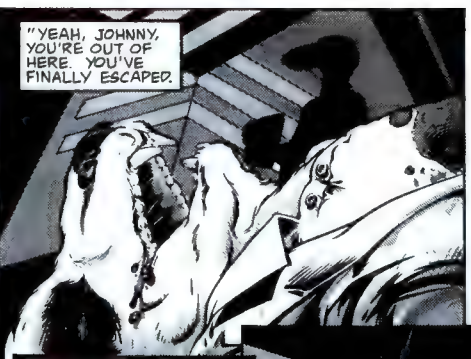


"YOU NEED BULLETS
TO MAKE A GUN
EFFECTIVE..."



"...BUT ONE THING WE
DON'T HAVE IN NEW
EDEN IS GUNPOWDER!"


TAKE...HIDE
IT... MY
TICKET OUT
OF HERE...



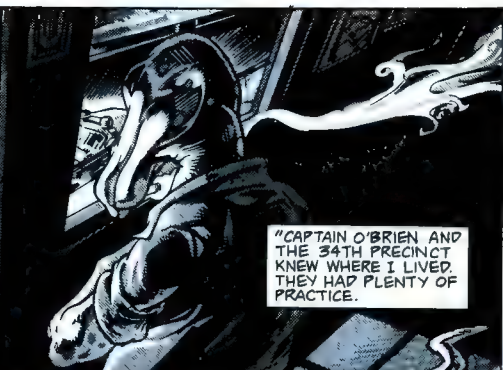
"YEAH, JOHNNY,
YOU'RE OUT OF
HERE. YOU'VE
FINALLY ESCAPED."



"JOHNNY LEFT ME
A LITTLE GOING
AWAY PRESENT..."



"...BUT THE BODY ON
THE FLOOR TOLD ME
THIS PACKAGE
BELONGED TO
SOMEONE ELSE!"



"CAPTAIN O'BRIEN AND THE 34TH PRECINCT KNEW WHERE I LIVED. THEY HAD PLENTY OF PRACTICE."



"PERFECT. NOW DON'T MOVE!"

"THIS SCENE IS PLAYED OUT A DOZEN TIMES A NIGHT IN NEW EDEN."



"SAY CHEESE!"

CLICK!
FLASH!!
FLASH!!

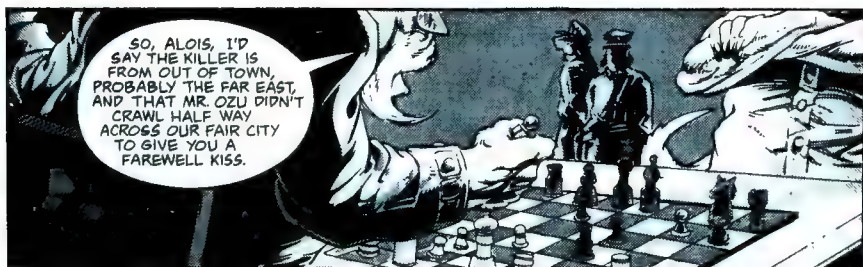
"I HOPE THIS ONE PAID YOU IN ADVANCE, ALOIS?"



"WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO TALK FINANCES WHEN HE SUDDENLY KEELER OVER, O'BRIEN."



"ONE: DEATH BY GUNSHOT HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A RARITY IN NEW EDEN THESE DAYS. TWO: JOHNNY LOOKS LIKE A HEAVY BLEEPER AND YET YOUR CARPET'S HOLDING LESS THAN A PINT."



"ANTICIPATE YOUR OPPONENT'S NEXT MOVE AND TRY TO COUNTER IT, THAT'S THE KEY TO CHESS."

"YOU HAVE TO BE THINKING THREE TO FOUR MOVES IN ADVANCE."



"IT'S THEIR MOVE "



IT'S OPEN!



"I HATE TOADS."



DIS HERE'S
DA SLAMMER!



YAH GOT
SOMETHIN'
DAT BELONGS
TA US!

YEAH, YAH
TELL 'EM,
SLAMMER!



WHAT IF
I SAY
"SO WHAT"?

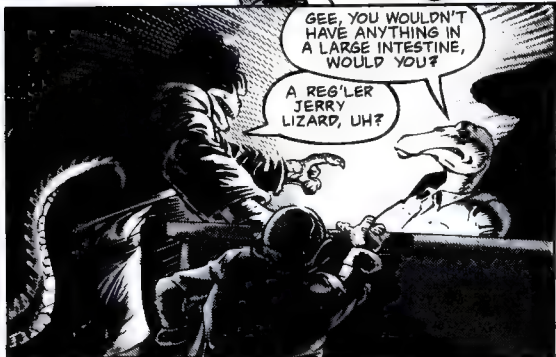


DEN
YAH'LL BE
WEARIN' YER
STOMACH
FER A
HAT!



YEAH,
FER A
HAT!

"I REALLY
HATE TOADS."



GEE, YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE ANYTHING IN
A LARGE INTESTINE,
WOULD YOU?

A REG'LER
JERRY
LIZARD, UH?

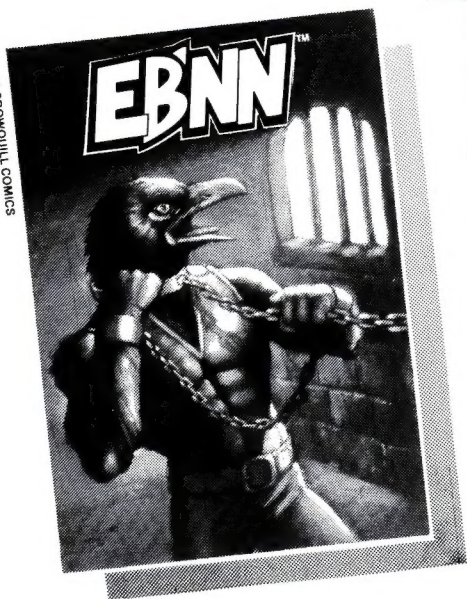




EB'NIN

TM

THE TIME IS



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NUMBER THREE SHIPPING IN MAY

NOW

TM



A
Monafekk
Scan